



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 05-282

**WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON
APPEAL OF CASS COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY CONCERNING A DECISION OF THE
UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR TO SUSPEND ITS
HIGH-COST UNIVERSAL SERVICE PAYMENTS**

CC Docket No. 96-45

Release Date: February 2, 2005

Comment Date: February 23, 2005

Reply Comment Date: March 7, 2005

The Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment on an appeal filed by Cass County Telephone Company (Cass County Telephone), pursuant to sections 54.719(c) and 54.720(a) of the Commission's rules, of a November 5, 2004 decision issued by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) suspending and withholding high-cost support payments to Cass County Telephone.¹ Among other things, Cass County Telephone contends that suspension of high-cost support violates its procedural and substantive due process rights, and restricts the ability of Cass County Telephone to provide telecommunications service to its customers.²

Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before **February 23, 2005**, and reply comments on or before **March 7, 2005**. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies.³

Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters

¹See Letter from E. Ashton Johnson, Counsel for Cass County Telephone Company, LLC, to Jeffrey J. Carlisle, Federal Communications Commission, filed Jan. 4, 2005 (Request for Review); Letter from Irene M. Flannery, Universal Service Administrative Company, to Kenneth Matzdorff, Cass County Telephone Company, dated November 5, 2004; 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.719(c) & 54.720(a).

²See Request for Review at 3-5.

³See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 Fed. Reg. 24121 (1998).

must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail).

The Commission's contractor, Natek, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002.

- The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners.
- Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building.
- Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.
- U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554.
- All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

Pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which ex parte communications are permitted subject to disclosure. For further information, contact Thomas Buckley, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0484.